57. A heat shrinkable film comprising a homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer of ethylene and an alpha-olefin having from six to ten carbon atoms, said copolymer having a density of at least 0.902 g/cc, wherein said heat shrinkable film has been extruded and cooled to its solid state by cascading water, and thereafter heated to its softening temperature and stretched in its machine and transverse directions followed by being quenched, so that said heat shrinkable film will return to its unstretched dimensions when heated.

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims and Above Amendments to the Claims

With the entry of the above amendments, Claims 1-8, 10-24, 26-43, and 46-64 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 16, 18, 28, 35, 36, 42, 43, and 57 being the pending independent claims. Claims 9, 25, 44, 45, and 65-72 have been canceled. The amendments to each of the amended claims are provided in the Appendix provided herewith.

Each of the independent claims has been amended by the deletion of the phrase "wherein the homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer is present in the film in an amount of from 15 to 100 weight percent, based on total film weight". Moreover, each of the independent claims except Claim 57 has been amended to recite the homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer as a copolymer of ethylene and an alpha-olefin having from "six to ten" carbon atoms, rather than the previously recited "three to ten" carbon atoms. Claim 57, as previously pending, recited six to ten carbon atoms, while the other independent claims previously recited three to ten carbon atoms.

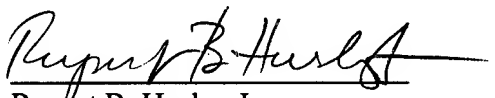
In addition, dependent Claim 8 has been amended by changing the recitation of the comonomer from "three to eight carbon atoms" to ---six to eight carbon atoms---.

Applicants contend that the cancellation of Claims 9, 25, 44, 45, and 65-72, and the amendment of the claims, present no new issues, and merely place the claims in better form for appeal. No new issue is presented by the above amendment. Prior to the above amendment, pending Claim 57 recited the comonomer as having from six to ten carbon atoms. Moreover, the deleted phrase "wherein the homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer is present in the film in an amount of from 15 to 100 weight percent, based on total film weight" was not recited in the pending claims until the amendment mailed 18 June 2001. The various canceled claims recited features inconsistent with the amended claims or redundant to the amended claims. Thus, the amendments simply eliminate issues for appeal, and present the claims in better form for appeal. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments above.

No new matter is added by the amendments.

Should there be any questions or otherwise needs to discuss any matters related to this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rupert B. Hurley Jr.
Reg. No. 29,313
(864) 433-3247

February 6, 2002

APPENDIX : The amendments to the Claims

1. (Five Times Amended) A heat shrinkable film comprising a homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer of ethylene and an alpha-olefin having from [three] six to ten carbon atoms, said copolymer having a density of at least 0.902 g/cc, wherein said heat shrinkable film has been extruded and cooled to its solid state by cascading water, and thereafter heated to its softening temperature and stretched in its machine and transverse directions followed by being quenched, so that said heat shrinkable film will return to its unstretched dimensions when heated [, and wherein the homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer is present in the film in an amount of from 15 to 100 weight percent, based on total film weight].

8. (Twice Amended) A heat shrinkable film as set forth in claim 1, wherein [said] said homogeneous linear copolymer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and an alpha-olefin has from [three] six to eight carbon atoms.

16. (Five Times Amended) A heat shrinkable film having a symmetrical structure comprising:

outer layers comprising a propylene homopolymer or copolymer; and

a core layer comprising a homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer of ethylene and an alpha-olefin having from [three] six to eight carbon atoms, said homogeneous copolymer having a density of at least 0.902 g/cc;

wherein said heat shrinkable film has been extruded and cooled to its solid state by cascading water, and thereafter heated to its softening temperature and stretched in its machine and

transverse directions followed by being quenched, so that said heat shrinkable film will return to its unstretched dimensions when heated [, and wherein the homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer is present in the film in an amount of from 15 to 100 weight percent, based on total film weight].

18. (Five Times Amended) A heat shrinkable multilayer film comprising:

a heat sealing layer;

an inner layer comprising a homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer of ethylene and an alpha-olefin having from [three] <u>six</u> to eight carbon atoms, said copolymer having a density of at least 0.902 g/cc; and

a barrier layer; and

wherein said heat shrinkable film has been extruded and cooled to its solid state by cascading water, and thereafter heated to its softening temperature and stretched in its machine and transverse directions followed by being quenched, so that said heat shrinkable film will return to its unstretched dimensions when heated [, and wherein the homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer is present in the film in an amount of from 15 to 100 weight percent, based on total film weight].

28. (Five Times Amended) A heat shrinkable multilayer film comprising:

a heat sealing layer comprising a homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer of ethylene and an alpha-olefin having from [three] six to eight carbon atoms, said copolymer having a density of at least 0.902 g/cc; and

a barrier layer; and

wherein said heat shrinkable film has been extruded and cooled to its solid state by cascading water, and thereafter heated to its softening temperature and stretched in its machine and transverse directions followed by being quenched, so that said heat shrinkable film will return to its unstretched dimensions when heated [, and wherein the homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer is present in the film in an amount of from 15 to 100 weight percent, based on total film weight].

35. (Five Times Amended) A heat shrinkable film comprising at least two layers wherein at least one of said layers comprises a homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer of ethylene and an alpha-olefin having from [three] six to eight carbon atoms, said copolymer having a density of at least 0.902 g/cc, and wherein at least one of said layers is crosslinked, and wherein said heat shrinkable film has been extruded and cooled to its solid state by cascading water, and thereafter heated to its softening temperature and stretched in its machine and transverse directions followed by being quenched, so that said heat shrinkable film will return to its unstretched dimensions when heated [, and wherein the homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer is present in the film in an amount of from 15 to 100 weight percent, based on total film weight].

36. (Five Times Amended) A heat shrinkable multilayer film having a symmetrical structure comprising:

outer layers comprising a homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer of ethylene and an alpha-olefin having from [three] six to eight carbon atoms, said copolymer having a density of at least 0.902 g/cc; and

an inner core layer; and

wherein said heat shrinkable film has been extruded and cooled to its solid state by cascading water, and thereafter heated to its softening temperature and stretched in its machine and transverse directions followed by being quenched, so that said heat shrinkable film will return to its unstretched dimensions when heated [, and wherein the homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer is present in the film in an amount of from 15 to 100 weight percent, based on total film weight].

42. (Four Times Amended) A seamless tubing comprising a multilayer, heat shrinkable film comprising a homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer of ethylene and an alpha-olefin having from [three] six to ten carbon atoms, said copolymer having a density of at least 0.902 g/cc, wherein said film has been extruded and cooled to its solid state by cascading water, and thereafter heated to its softening temperature and stretched in its machine and transverse directions followed by being quenched, so that said film will return to its unstretched dimensions when heated [, and wherein the homogeneous linear single site

catalyzed copolymer is present in the film in an amount of from 15 to 100 weight percent, based on total film weight].

43. (Four Times Amended) A process for making a heat-shrinkable film, comprising:

(A) extruding a film comprising a homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer of ethylene and an alpha-olefin having from [three] six to ten carbon atoms, said copolymer having a density of at least 0.902 g/cc; and

B) cooling the film to the solid state by cascading water;

C) reheating the film to a softening temperature of the homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer;

D) stretching the film so that an oriented molecular configuration is produced;

E) quenching the film while substantially retaining its stretched dimensions to set the film in the oriented molecular configuration. [; and

wherein the homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer is present in the film in an amount of from 15 to 100 weight percent, based on total film weight.]

57. (Twice Amended) A heat shrinkable film comprising a homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer of ethylene and an alpha-olefin having from six to ten carbon atoms, said copolymer having a density of at least 0.902 g/cc, wherein said heat shrinkable film has been extruded and cooled to its solid state by cascading water, and thereafter heated to its softening temperature and stretched in its machine and transverse directions followed by being quenched,

so that said heat shrinkable film will return to its unstretched dimensions when heated [, and wherein the homogeneous linear single site catalyzed copolymer is present in the film in an amount of from 15 to 100 weight percent, based on total film weight].